

PHASED-IN APPROACH TO STUDENTS RETURNING

Dear Student

As per the national directives, at lockdown level 2, a maximum of 66% of students can return to our campuses and residences from August 2020. To identify the students earmarked for return at level 2, we established a Multi-Stakeholder Returning Students Task Team. During this week, the task team approved the first cohort of students to return under lockdown level 2.

Students who have experienced connectivity challenges and thus unable to learn online and those who need to do lab and studio work are strongly encouraged to return as soon as possible in order to complete the work of Semester 1 and start with Semester 2.

66%



I am glad to inform you that you have been earmarked to return. There are now four steps that you need to take:



STEP 1

Agree to the "Terms and Conditions for Returning to Campus".



STEP 2

If you need a travel permit, it will be generated electronically.



STEP 3

Identify whether you fall into group A or B.

A

You need to travel to Port Elizabeth or George to your campus, off-campus accredited, or private accommodation.

For students in group A:

Please start returning to your place of residence **as soon as possible within the next two weeks.**

If you are currently sick or in quarantine, please only return when you are better or after the quarantine period.

Students in **on-campus or off-campus accredited accommodation** will be informed of the procedures you need to follow on your return since your health and safety is of critical importance to us.

Likewise, students returning to **private accommodation** must practice the correct health hygiene and physical distancing, wear a cloth mask and adhere to any other COVID-19 requirements where you will be living.

B

You live at home and commute to university from home.

For students in group B:

Continue to protect yourself and others by following all COVID-19 prevention measures.

If you have restarted your **studies online**, please continue to do so.

If you need to use a **general computer lab**, please make a booking using the online system on the webpage.



If you are unable to return at this stage, please let your lecturers know.



STEP 4

For returning students in groups A and B, your lecturers will inform you about how your academic activities are being arranged and the date, time and venue when you should come onto campus. Please only arrive on campus after you have been orientated and notified by your lecturers to do so.

We are opening our libraries and general computer labs for students. The procedure to book sessions in these learning support venues can be found on the webpage:

<https://www.mandela.ac.za/News-and-Events/Coronavirus-Information/Academic-and-Research-Activities-during-COVID-19> and your emails for this information.

HEALTH AND SAFETY MEASURES



As a University we are committed to preparing an environment that is conducive for learning, which means your safety is paramount. Daily health screening, testing and hygiene protocols will take place on all campuses in line with national directives to ensure the safety of staff and students. You will also need to take responsibility for your own protection and that of others through correct health hygiene, physical distancing and by wearing a mask in public at all times.

NEW WAYS OF LEARNING

For most of your normal classes, a blended approach will be used. In this approach, most of the theoretical work will be covered online, augmented by using online platforms such as MS Teams and Zoom for virtual lecture sessions, flipped-class discussions and tuts.

You are only likely to be in contact sessions for lab and studio work, experiential learning, work-integrated learning (WIL) and school-based learning (SBL) and for some revision, and additional tutorials and end of module assessments. Venues for contact sessions will adhere to physical distancing and health hygiene requirements.

After such a long time away from campus, we look forward to welcoming you back and to provide you with a different, but still conducive learning environment, so that you can reach your goal of successfully completing the 2020 academic year.

The world as we know it has changed. Now each of us needs to adapt to new ways of studying, working and living. These changes are unlikely to be easy in the beginning, but we are confident that together we can overcome these new challenges.